Joshua Soon

U.S. History 11, pd.2

12-3-11

Exam Essay

(Essay Question) Describe the origin of political parties in America and their major conflicts up to 1800.

The United States was originally comprised of thirteen colonies that lie on the East Coast of North America. They were united by the U.S. Constitution that brought about a government. The United States at that point was an independent nation governed by its own laws and regulations. Due to the formation of a semi-self-efficient and government based on neutrality two political parties emerged. The Constitution provided a purpose for these two political parties, the Residence Act of 1790 was an early compromise between the two parties and the Alien and Sedition Acts was a main conflict between the two parties.

The two political parties in the late 1700’s were the Federalists and Republicans. Due to the U.S. Constitution calling for a government that’s based on neutrality this was the reason why political parties emerged. There were two key leaders in these parties, Jefferson the leader of the Republican Party and Hamilton the leader of the Federalist Party. They both took hand in the making of the U.S. Constitution and to balance out the government they formed these two political parties. They both had their own pros and cons and there was heavy conflict between the two. The political parties took aggressive and defensive actions against each other concerning key laws and how the Government should be run. The emergence of these two political parties due to the Constitution would heavily run many of the elections and become an important part of American History.

Thomas Jefferson the leader of the Republican Party, Alexander Hamilton leader of the Federalists and James Madison had both agreed to a compromise. However, there was still conflict between the two parties and the main concern was solving these conflicts. So Congress agreed on a Residence Act of 1790 to be approved and become official. It was officially titled, “An Act for Establishing the Temporary and permanent Seat of the Government of the United States.” By this act it helped to solve the problems that had emerged and try to set up a new capital. These were one of the early conflicts between the two parties.

In later time the Alien and Sedition Act emerged. This Act was an important conflict between the two parties; it not only targeted a certain party but also caused an unbalance in the Government. The Alien and Sedition Act were four laws that were made by the Federalists-Controlled Congress. The Federalists were at the top now and this was the cause to the unbalance in the government. The laws that were consisted in the Alien and Sedition Act were designed in weakening the Democratic-Republican Party. Sadly this was a positive towards the Democratic-Republican Party because it made them win the election in the 1800’s due to the negativity towards the Federalists Alien and Sedition Act. This Act was one of the major conflicts that developed before the 1800’s and there were many more conflicts after the 1800’s.

The United States before the 1800’s was a less-developed country then it is today and had many conflicts within its own government. With many new ideas and lots of land, the two parties were always at conflict due to the fact that what they believed was better for the nation. They could hardly side with each other and they had mainly aggressive actions towards each other in Congress. The formation of the Constitution had played the most important role in establishing the political parties and a government based on neutrality. The many conflicts such as the Alien and Sedition Act was one of the major conflicts between the two parties. The emergence of the political parties would play an important role in shaping the United States and there are still two political parties in existence today.